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**REMARKS**

No new matter has been introduced.

The wording in Claims 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 16 have also been amended to avoid multiple dependency.

Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

These changes have been made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as amended on November 7, 2000. A marked-up version of Claims 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 16 indicating the changes is enclosed with this Preliminary Amendment.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: William Rowland RN-30888, fa  
Platon N. Mandros  
Registration No. 22,124

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620

Date: March 18, 2002

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**Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated March 18, 2002**

**Marked-up Copy**

Page 12, Paragraph Beginning at Line 13

(19) A connector according to the above [(19)] (18) wherein said housing comprises two members, and said flange is inserted in the space formed between said two members so that said valve is fixedly secured to said housing.

Page 48, Paragraph Beginning at Line 1

The fixture portion 341 of the valve 3 has sunk into the relief space 224 together with the part of the flange 35 near the fixture portion 341. Since such substantial deformation is enabled by the provision of the relief space 224, the tube 4 can be engaged even if the length [(FIG. 16, L<sub>2</sub>] (FIG. 14, L<sub>2</sub>) of the tube 4 (inner 45) to be inserted in the connector were different, for example, even if the L<sub>2</sub> were longer. Accordingly, the connector 1 has enabled engagement of the tubes 4 having different insertion length.

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**Marked-up Claims**

8. A connector according to claim 6 [or 7] wherein a space is defined between said base and said housing to allow said dilatation of said base.
9. A connector according to [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1 wherein said valve restores its original shape when said tube is disengaged from said connection port.
10. A connector according to [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1 wherein said slit has a size such that penetration of said tube through said slit opening of said slit is not allowed.
12. A connector according to [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1 wherein at least a part of said base is tapered such that outer diameter or inner diameter increases with increase in the distance from said valve portion.
13. A connector according to [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1 wherein said valve portion has a projection and/or a recess on the surface that becomes in contact with distal and surface of said tube.

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**Marked-up Claims**

16. A connector according to [any one of claims 1 to 15] claim 1 wherein said valve portion has a projection on the surface that does not become in contact with said distal and surface of the tube.